THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The rate of inflation based on Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) and wholesale Price Index (WPI) during the first six months of the 1996-97 as also for the preceeding three years 1993-94 to 1995-96 is listed below:

Annual Rate of Inflation (%)

Month	Inflation based on WPI				Inflation based on CPI (IW)			
	1996-97	1995-96	1994-95	1993-94	1996-97	1995-96	1994-95	1993-94
April	5.0	10.0	11.8	6.9	9.8	9.7	9.8	6.1
May	4.5	9.9	12.0	6.9	9.3	10.3	10.6	5.1
June	4.5	9.1	11.8	7.0	8.8	10.5	10.8	5.9
July	6.0	8.4	11.6	7.3	8.3	11.4	11.1	4.5
August	6.6	8.8	10.2	8.0	8.9	10.9	10.9	5.8
September	6.4(P)	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.5	10.1	11.2	6.6

P: Provisional

(c) Inflation rate based on wholesale price index which had touched a low of 4.5%, in June 1996 began to show as uptrend from July following the average increase of about 18% in the price on petroleum products. This uptrend was further reinforced subsequently by revision in the prices of coal and sharp increase in price of food-grains namely wheat and rice.

Adverse effect of vacancies of Judges in Bombay High Court

*78. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are as many as eight vacancies of judges in the Bombay High Court at present which is adversely affecting the functioning of the High Court and piling-up of cases therein;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such large number of vacancies of judges in the said High Court; and

(c) by when Government propose to fill up these vacanices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) As on 15.11.96, there were 10 vacancies of permanent Judges against the sanctioned strength of 59 permanent/ Additional Judges of the Bombay High Court. The process of consultation among the concerned constitutional authorities for filling up the vacancies is on. While every effort is being made to fill up these vacancies as quickly as possible, it is not possibe to indicate any specific time in this regard.

Complaints from MPs/Public against Officers of State Bank of Indore

*79. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1612 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th July, 1996 and state:

(a) the names of the officers of the branches and the Regional Office, Gwalior of the State Bank of Indore against whom complaints have been received from Public and Members of Parliament;

(b) the nature of the process adopted to inquire into the complaints against these officers;

(c) the nature of the complaints for which the concerned Branch Managers of the city branches were "Cautioned" only;